



MADD
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**Testimony of Robin Cullen
Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Connecticut**

**Connecticut General Assembly Transportation Committee
February 14, 2010**

MADD Connecticut strongly urges that HB No. 6132 "An Act Concerning Evidence of Drunken Driving"

Thank you Co-Chairman Maynard, Co-Chairman Guerra and members of the Transportation Committee for holding this important hearing and for the opportunity to submit testimony today in support of legislation to combat drunk driving. My name is Robin Cullen and I serve as the Victim Impact Panel Coordinator for Mothers Against Drunk Driving

In recent years, the war against drunk driving has stalled in the U.S. Every year 11,000 people are killed by drunk drivers with an illegal alcohol level of .08 blood alcohol concentration (BAC) or higher.

Every week in the MADD office we receive calls from frustrated EMT's and Paramedics who arrive at the scenes of horrific motor vehicle crashes only to find that operator of the vehicle appears and often is intoxicated. Police officers trying to secure the scene are often not able to accompany the "alleged drunk driver" to the emergency department – they send the driver on ahead with medical personnel to be treated for injuries. This is where the problem begins – the "alleged drunk driver" may never be tested for an alcohol level with a blood sample or urinalysis. Many walk away without a test and are never arrested for drunk driving. It is imperative that the general statutes be amended to provide procedure for a police officer to obtain a blood or urine sample from an operator of a motor vehicle who has been injured in a crash when such police officer has probable cause to believe that such operator was under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

MADD respectfully requests support of proposed bill no. 6132 to clarify testing procedures for drunk drivers.

Thank you.